



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

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ENGAGING ADMINISTRATORS IN INDOOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

It takes a team to effectively manage indoor air quality (IAQ) in schools. The most effective school IAQ management teams engage a cross-section of the school community, including a representative from the highest levels of school district administration, who can ensure IAQ management is considered in all relevant school policies and programs.

While most *IAQ Tools for Schools* activities have specifically been designed to have minimal impact on the school budget and staff resources, sometimes obtaining buy-in from the highest levels of school district administration is essential to secure funds or resources that are critical to the long-term success of an IAQ program. [Senior administrators](#) have the authority to ensure that the school staff have the proper incentives and resources to carry out an IAQ program.

Keep relevant committees, groups and the highest levels of school or district administration apprised of your IAQ activities to ensure IAQ remains a priority for your school or district! Follow the tips below to get your administrator involved in creating an IAQ management program.

GETTING BUY-IN: SHARING THE BENEFITS OF YOUR IAQ PROGRAM

Gaining support for an IAQ management program does not happen overnight; it takes a skilled and informed approach to educate decision makers on the benefits and results that good IAQ can have on school environments.

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance and publications below can help you prepare for conversations with school executives and administrators on the importance and value of

Test Your IAQ Management Knowledge...

Which action below should you NOT take if you want to create healthy indoor environments in schools?

- A. Use the least toxic cleaners possible (only those approved by the district).
- B. Wipe down desks each day with bleach wipes.
- C. Use low-toxicity and low-emitting paint.
- D. Use formaldehyde-free materials.

Find out the answer to this question and learn more about smart materials selection on the [IAQ Tools for Schools website](#).

Do you have other questions on IAQ management? Post them on the Schools IAQ Connector Email Discussion List. **Join today** by sending a blank email message to schools_iaq_connector_subscribe@lists.epa.gov. Check your email inbox for confirmation and membership details.

Access Previous Connector E-Newsletters Online

Can't find a previous *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector e-newsletter in your inbox? No problem! Visit the [e-newsletter archive](#) on the *IAQ Tools for Schools* website to access printable versions (PDFs) of all past editions.

implementing an IAQ management program in your school or district:

1. **Quick Reference Guide on Student Health and Academic Performance:** This fact sheet explains how IAQ in schools affects the health, productivity, performance, and comfort of students, teachers and staff. Numerous factors can lead to poor IAQ and trigger health problems like asthma and allergies.
2. **Indoor Air Quality Backgrounder - The Basics:** This guidance document offers an in-depth description of factors that affect IAQ in schools.
3. **School Official's IAQ Backgrounder:** This two-page document describes the role school officials can play to ensure IAQ is managed effectively in their school or district.
4. **School Official's Checklist:** This working document lists the roles and responsibilities school officials can take on to ensure IAQ management is optimized in their school or district.

'The IAQ Tools for Schools Program has become a part of our culture and the 'way we do business.' The expectation is that we will provide a clean, healthy environment for our students and staff, and the IAQ Tools for Schools Program allows us to do just that. As time passes, we continue to instill those lessons in our employees and see buy-in at all levels; it has become an integral part of our day-to-day operations.'

– Peggy Caruso, Assistant Director,
Maintenance and Operation, Katy
Independent School District

GET STARTED WITH EPA'S IAQ TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS COMMUNICATIONS GUIDE!

Do you need some inspiration before reaching out to senior school district administrators about IAQ? EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools Communications Guide can help. This practical guide offers ideas and resources for developing and carrying out activities that communicate the benefits of participating in an IAQ management program.

Get a copy of EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools Communications Guide today! This guide is available at no cost either [online](#) or [place an order](#) for a print copy.



NEWS AND EVENTS!

- **New Research – Association of Classroom Ventilation with Reduced Illness Absence: a Prospective Study in California Elementary Schools.** The abstract to this article, published in *Indoor Air 2013*, can be [read here](#).
- **American Public Health Association, Annual Meeting and Exposition**, Boston, MA, November 2 – 4, 2013. While you are there, check out the session [Indoor air quality, public health, buildings and extreme weather events: Expanding the capacity of buildings to maintain healthy indoor environments during weather extremes](#). Get more information on the [APHA conference](#).
- **American Lung Association Recognizes Asthma Management Efforts in Schools.** The American Lung Association (ALA) recently recognized three schools in Texas and one in Massachusetts with the [ALA Asthma-Friendly Schools Initiative \(AFSI\) Champion Award](#) which recognizes schools that have taken positive strides

to create a healthier learning environment using strategies outlined in the [Asthma-Friendly Schools Initiative](#). Congratulations to the three elementary schools from North East Independent School District, San Antonio, TX, Camelot Elementary, El Dorado Elementary and Larkspur Elementary, as well as William Monroe Trotter Elementary School, of Boston Public Schools, MA, for implementing a comprehensive asthma management program, including a proactive indoor air quality management program. These four schools will serve as champions for schools nationwide by sharing their best practices and experiences with others who are working towards healthier learning environments.

- **Mold Control is Moisture Control: Beyond the Basics for Addressing Mold Issues in Schools webinar** on November 19, 2013, 3 – 4 p.m. EST (1 – 2 p.m. PST). In this webinar, facilities managers and health experts will share current information and outline strategies you can use to address mold and moisture control problems and prevent related health issues in schools. [Register here](#). To learn more about mold and moisture in schools, the proceedings from our most recent webinar on the topic can be found on our [webinar resources](#) page.

PROMOTE IAQ WITH EPA'S IAQ TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS PUBLICATIONS

Did you know many of EPA's *IAQ Tools for Schools* [publications](#) are available in print version at no cost?

Share these publications with attendees at your next event, and help spread the word about the importance of IAQ management!

Check out the list of *IAQ Tools for Schools* [publications](#) and place your order [today](#)!

GET ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Is there a topic you want to see covered in an *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector e-newsletter? Do you have suggestions for a webinar or e-newsletter feature, or do you have questions about a specific IAQ topic? If so, send us an email at IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

Share YOUR news and events! Send us information to share with the school IAQ community. It could be featured in the next Connector e-newsletter. Email your news and events to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance is a comprehensive resource designed to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ Tools for Schools* guidance at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools>.